



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Office of the Fire Marshal

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Good Morning, My name is Donn Dobson; I am the Fire Marshal for the Town Of Old Saybrook, a member of the Board of Directors for the CT Fire Marshal's Association and President of the CT Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

I am here this morning to speak in opposition to **House Bill 5238, AN ACT CONCERNING LIQUOR PERMIT RENEWALS AND FIRE CODE INSPECTIONS**. First let me give you a little history. In order for an establishment to renew their liquor permit for the year, the permit tee must arrange an inspection with their local fire marshal's office. This process is in place to insure that the bar; restaurant or café meets the inspection requirements of the CT State Fire Safety Code and the CT Fire Prevention Code.

This process has been in place for over 20 years. Those establishments that meet the requirements are then issued a State Certificate that indicates that the establishment is Fire Code Compliant. Those places that do not meet the Fire Code requirements are issued the same State Certificate that indicates that they are nor fire code compliant. These State Forms are used for several other certifications throughout the state including, daycare, educational, healthcare just to name a few.

The Fire Code inspection process for liquor permit inspections has been a valuable tool to use for Fire Marshals throughout the years. It has been proven invaluable, with finding and not approving establishments that do not meet the basic requirements of the CT Fire Safety & Fire Prevention Codes. These finding are not things that make the news, because they are preventive measures that have stopped things from happening. The State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection sends the Establishments their renewal forms at least 6 weeks ahead of time. This means they have more than ample time to arrange an inspection with their fire marshals office.

Establishments have the same expiration dates every year, they do not change, much like Christmas or your birthday, which means they do not have to wait to arrange for an inspection for their establishment. Prolonging the process does nothing but possibly put the public in danger if the establishment is not in compliance,